

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of silencing a target gene in an organism by post-transcriptional gene silencing (PTGS), wherein the method involves introducing into the organism a silencing agent which targets a targeted region of a target gene. The silencing agent includes short RNA molecules (SRMs) which are 25 nucleotides in length plus or minus 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 nucleotides. The SRMs include short antisense RNA molecules, SARMs and corresponding complementary short sense RNA molecules, SSRMs which are present in at equal abundance, and which are specific for the targeted region of the target gene.